Mining Zones in Andhra Pradesh

817. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Government has identified 12 exclusive mining zones near Hyderabad;

(b) if so, whether the above declaration and the subsequent extraction of minerals would lead to excessive exploitation of Mineral resources;

(c) whether the States, which are on a fast track to export minerals are advised to maintain desired restraint;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) As per the information received from State Government of Andhra Pradesh, 15 areas have been identified around Hyderabad city on the outskirts of Ranga Reddy district for declaration as mining zones.

(b) Mining activity in the country is required to be done in a systematic and scientific manner as per mining, environmental and safety legislations, and mining of minerals depends on various parameters including reserves and market demand.

(c) to (e) Export of minerals is guided by the Export-Import (EXIM) Policy notified by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry from time to time.

Gold reserves

818. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are adequate gold reserves in the country;

(b) whether the Geological Survey of India has been asked to find the reserves available in seven States; and

(c) if so, the progress made in that respect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) has reported that as per the National Mineral Inventory, the total reserves of gold ore (primary) in the country as on 1.4.2005 are estimated at 19.25 million tonnes with a metal content of 85 tonnes.

(b) Geological Survey of India (GSI) has been carrying out exploration for gold in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

(c) The progress made in Gold exploration by GSI during the last three years (Field Season 2004-05 to 2006-07) is as under:

State	Area of exploration	No. of Field Season programmes undertaken	Resource estimated by GSI
Andhra Pradesh	Cuddapah, Nellore, Kurnool district	6	Work is in Progress
Karnataka	Gadag, Chitradurga, Bellary, Davanegere districts	18	0.293 million tonne gold ore with an average grade of 2.00 gram/tonne in Ajjanahalli East Block, Tumkur district (2005-06).
Tamil Nadu	Nilgiri and Krishnagiri districts	2	Result is not encouraging
Rajasthan	Banswara, Ajmer, Bhilwara districts	10	A total resource of 47.90 million tonnes with average grade 1.97 gram/tonne gold in Bhukia in Banswara district, (major part during 2004-05).
Jharkhand	Ranchi and West Singhbhum districts	11	1.11 million tonne gold ore with an average grade of 2.24 gram/tonne gold in Parasi, Ranchi district (2005-06). 0.33 million tonne gold ore with an average grade of 3.65 gram/tonne gold in Pahardia, West Singhbhum district (2005-06).
Madhya Pradesh	Balaghat and Katni districts	3	Result is not encouraging
Chhattisgarh	Kanker and Raipur districts	3	Resource is yet to be assessed.
Kerala	Palakkad and Wayanad districts	2	Result is not encouraging.

Discrimination against Muslim OBCs

819. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether muslim OBCs are facing severe discrimination on the basis of both religion and caste; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?